



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

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DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL FINES SHAFTER-BASED CUMMINGS VACUUM SERVICE, INC., FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced it issued an \$11,000 enforcement order against Cummings Vacuum Services, Inc., aka Cummings Transportation, for hazardous waste violations at its 19609 Broken Ct., facility in Shafter. The company operates an authorized hazardous waste transporter business from this property, at which DTSC noted several violations during a routine inspection on March 21.

“Businesses like Cummings are an important part of the waste management cycle, particularly in serving the more remote areas of the state such as Kern County,” DTSC Director Maureen F. Gorsen said. “We can report that Cummings corrected all of the violations that our inspectors found and has committed to sending its facility manager to training to operate safely and avoid future enforcement orders from DTSC,” Gorsen added.

Among the violations found by DTSC inspectors were that the facility stored hazardous waste for longer than the 90 days allowed without having a hazardous waste facility permit. Cummings workers failed to properly label storage tanks and containers holding hazardous waste which ensures that those wastes are handled properly and not mixed with wastes that could cause reactions such as explosion or fire. The facility also had insufficient berms to contain releases from its storage tanks in order to minimize the public health or environmental damage caused by leaks or spills. Finally, the company stored and offered for transportation hazardous waste without having received an identification number, which could have meant a breach in the principle of the polluter paying for cleaning up contamination caused by those entities’ wastes.

As part of the settlement, Cummings Vacuum Service will get a \$5,000 compliance school credit when the facility manager completes DTSC-developed hazardous waste generator training modules within 185 days of the date of the consent order.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.